

Methods and Composition for Detecting Targets

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/421,035, filed October 23, 2002, and PCT International Application No. PCT/US02/33801, filed October 23, 2002, both of which are expressly

5 incorporated by reference herein.

I. Field of the Invention

[001] The invention relates to methods and compositions for the detection of targets in a sample.

II. Background

10 [002] The detection of the presence or absence of (or quantity of) one or more target sequences in a sample containing one or more target sequences is commonly practiced. For example, the detection of cancer and many infectious diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis, routinely includes screening biological samples for the presence or absence of diagnostic nucleic acid
15 sequences. Also, detecting the presence or absence of nucleic acid sequences is often used in forensic science, paternity testing, genetic counseling, and organ transplantation.

[003] An organism's genetic makeup is determined by the genes contained within the genome of that organism. Genes are composed of long
20 strands or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) polymers that encode the information needed to make proteins. Properties, capabilities, and traits of an organism often are related to the types and amounts of proteins that are, or are not, being produced by that organism.

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